

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 5 and cancelled Claims 2-4, 6 and 7. Claims 1 and 5 remain pending in the present application. Claim 1 is an independent claim.

The Examiner has required election among the inventions of Group I (Claims 1-5) and Group II (Claims 6-7). During a telephone conversation on January 5, 2006 Applicant's representative provisionally elected with traverse to prosecute the invention defined by Claims 1-5 (Group I). This is to affirm the election. Claims 6-7 were withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner as being drawn to a non-elected invention. In order to expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicant has elected to cancel the non-elected claims. However, it should be noted that under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 121 Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter.

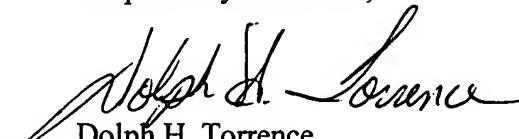
In the recent Office Action the Examiner objected to the language of Claim 1. Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Jones et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,463,252). The Examiner indicated that Claims 4 and -5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base and of any intervening claims.

The Examiner noted the language “said signal comprises a solid-state relay load side and each said signal comprises a solid-state relay load side” renders Claim 1 indefinite. In this regard, Applicant has revised the instant language of Claim 1 by changing “signal” to read –switch--. Applicant respectfully submits that this revision to Claim 1 should serve to obviate this particular ground of objection.

The Examiner’s indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In this regard, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 4 and intervening Claims 2-3. The incorporated claims have been canceled and the dependency of Claim 5 has been changed to now depend from Claim –1--. Applicant respectfully submits that for at least these reasons, amended independent Claim 1 and corresponding dependent Claim 5 are allowable over the prior art applied of record.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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